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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 14 February 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a statement, received by fax, made by the Press Service of the Ministry of Defence of the Azerbaijani Republic in connection with the appeal by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to the States and parties engaged in armed conflict to declare a truce for the duration of the 1994 Winter Olympics being held in Lillehammer (Norway) from 12 to 25 February.

I should also like to draw to your attention the fact that in response to Azerbaijan's readiness to cease fire on the day of the opening of the Olympic Games, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia launched a large-scale attack along the entire breadth of the front. The Armenian troops, introducing new, fresh forces from Armenian territory into the Kelbajar district of Azerbaijan, are attempting to break through to the main body of the Armenian occupation force. Fierce, bloody engagements are continuing in this direction.

Continuous positional engagements are also taking place in the Fizuli district of Azerbaijan

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its attachment circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, under agenda item 167, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement by the Press Service of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan dated 11 February 1994

In connection with the appeal by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to States and parties engaged in armed conflicts to declare a truce for the duration of the 1994 Winter Olympics being held in Lillehammer (Norway) from 12 to 25 February, the Press Service of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan is authorized by the Command of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan to state the following.

The Azerbaijani Republic, as a member of the international community and of IOC, acknowledges and respects the long-standing principle of halting wars for the period of the Olympic Games. On the assumption that this step may have a positive impact on the reduction of tension and the future settlement of the conflict, Azerbaijan's armed forces are prepared to support the act of goodwill proposed by IOC and to cease fire forever across the whole breadth of the front, if the armed forces of Armenia withdraw their occupying forces from the Azerbaijani territory captured by them.

This reservation, the Command of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan explains, is necessary because in the past the Armenian side has more than once taken advantage of a cease-fire to deliver an attack and capture Azerbaijani territory, and there is no guarantee that the same thing will not happen this time.